

NEWS RELEASE

Court to Move to Electronic Case Filing

The United States District Court has begun a transition to use of a new computer application that will accept electronic case filing, according to Chief Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr.

Called Case Management/Electronic Case Filing, or CM/ECF, the application allows documents to be filed electronically over the Internet, orders to be entered and distributed via the Internet, and notices to be sent by e-mail. Implementation of the system will result in the immediate creation of docket entries and instant access to updated docket sheets and case documents via a computer from anywhere. Ultimately, the system will permit the federal court to move away from processing and storing tons of paper. That does not mean, however, that paper records will vanish completely. The court will continue to accept paper filings from some litigants, such as those proceeding pro se.

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts designed the system and is phasing in its use in district and bankruptcy courts across the nation. The installation and transition period is approximately 10 months and live CM/ECF operation in the District Court in Northern Indiana is scheduled to begin in Fall/Winter 2003.

Several committees of court staff are being formed and will soon be working on issues such as training for attorneys and court staff and revisions to local rules and internal operating procedures. Details about the system, training for attorneys and law firm staff, and electronic tutorials on the District Court's Web site (www.innd.uscourts.gov) will follow in the coming months.